

RE: HB6059 an Act Concerning the Construction of a Train Station in Thompsonville

Good morning my name is Lori Longhi; I live at 1427 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT. I am 3<sup>rd</sup> generation life- long resident of Enfield. My parents and grandparents grew up in Thompsonville and my father still has a business property located in Thompsonville.

I am currently a member of the Enfield Planning and Zoning Commission and I am the appointed liaison to the Thompsonville Revitalization Strategy Group. I own several properties in town, some located in Thompsonville and I am a business owner. I am here today speaking as a life-long resident of Enfield in support of the light rail system. I am in full support of bringing a rail stop and transit center back to Thompsonville. Previously I utilized the train to go north to Springfield Mass and south into New York City. From Springfield you could get into Boston. The community needs this stop back; we have approximately 45,000 residents and this will open up job opportunities not only in Enfield but for the surrounding towns of Suffield and Somers.

The double rail is a necessity north of Hartford. If you are going to do this system then you have to do it right. The double track system needs to go to the state line so it can be connected to Springfield.

I am sure this is a competitive process between towns and that is why I want to tell you that during my tenure on the Planning & Zoning Commission we have already started the process by implementing the rail system into our plan of conservation and development. I have supplied pages of the Plan of Conservation and Development that is pertinent to the rail system. The town of Enfield has a web page dedicated to Transit Development. I have enclosed that information. The community has embraced the light rail system, they need it and they plan to utilize it. This community is willing to work with the state to do what needs to be done in order to move this project forward.

Our town has started the process of having the zoning in Thompsonville studied. We have a community workshop scheduled for February 23, 2013. I am here today to reach out and tell you that people in the community are willing to meet and find out what the DOT needs to start this process moving forward. Before we start the process of re-zoning this area, input from the state is very important. This needs to be a cohesive effort from all of us. I am here today to tell you that this community is willing to work with you and wants to move things forward.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

Lori Longhi